

MINUTES

Seattle Human Rights Commission Meeting

Thursday, May 5, 2011, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present

Nika Dahlbacka, Joshua Marshall, Merri Ann Osborne, Marty Penner, Mike Peters, Roslyn Solomon, Christopher Stearns

Commissioners Regrets

Jessica Andrade, Jesse Aspuria, Damien Carter, Andrew Lewis, Mica Powers, Keith Toussaint, Jennifer Yogi

Guest

Greg Ramirez

SOCR Staff Present

Felicia Yearwood, JT Delich

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

April 2011 minutes were approved as read

Guest Speaker

Larry Gossett, Chair, King County Council

King County Council Chair Larry Gossett recounted key moments in the civil rights history of Seattle.

- In 1961, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr and Rev. Samuel B McKinney led a march of nine thousand people to demand open housing legislation.
- In 1963, a group of youth took over the Mayor's office to demand civil rights.
- The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) was founded. The Seattle CORE founders published a book about its history, "Seattle in Black and White: The Congress of Racial Equality and The Fight for Equal Opportunity" (*University of Washington Press, 2011*).
- The first black man elected to the Seattle City Council was Sam Smith in 1968.

Mr. Gossett contrasted the degree of civil rights activism of the 1960's with that of today. He identified efforts to remedy racial disproportionality in the justice system: drug and mental health courts, sobering centers, crisis solution centers, and relicensing programs.

SOCR Report:

The City will institute a “scofflaw” program on July 1st. Police will place a boot on cars that have four or more unpaid parking tickets. Residents are advised to pay off tickets during an amnesty period prior to July 1st. Commissioners are urged to share news of this new program with their contacts.

Announcements:

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| May 26 th | Kevin Carey event at the Downtown Library |
| June 8 th | Five commission meeting |

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.